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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

INFORMATION ON USSR AGRICULTURE, 1 - 10 FEBRUARY 1953

[Comment: This report presents information, from Soviet newspapers, on agriculture in the USSR as a whole and in seven of the union republics. Progress and statistical data are given on the following: crops, mechanization, fertilization, land improvement, rural electrification, and labor and organization.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

USSR

According to the Fifth Five-Year Plan, yields in various zones of the USSR will be raised to the following levels, in quintals per hectare:

| Region | Crop | | | | |
|--|-------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|------------------|
| | Grain | Irrigated Grain | Irrigated Rice | Unirrigated Cotton | Irrigated Cotton |
| Central chernozem | 16-18 | 30-34 | | | |
| Nonchernozem zone | 17-19 | | | | |
| Southern Ukraine and Northern Caucasus | 20-22 | 30-34 | 40-50 | 5-7 | 11-13 |
| Urals, Siberia, North-eastern Kazakhstan | 15-16 | 24-26 | | | |
| Transcaucasus | 20-22 | 30-34 | 40-50 | | 25-27 |
| Volga | 14-15 | 25-28 | | | |
| Central Asia and southern Kazakhstan | | | | | 26-27 (1) |

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Many workers and employees occupy themselves with olericulture and horticulture in their spare time. For this purpose, the state allots tracts of land and extends aid to the gardeners in obtaining seed, fertilizer, plants, and agricultural equipment.

In 1952, about 18 million workers and employees, almost 700,000 more than in 1951, engaged in gardening. From an area of 1,383,000 hectares of land devoted to individual and collective gardens, 10 million tons of potatoes and vegetables were harvested.

In recent years, the workers and employees of some enterprises have occupied themselves with the creation of collective orchards. At present, there are more than 650 collective orchards, covering a total area of about 5,000 hectares, in Chalyabinskaya, Sverdlovskaya, Irkutskaya, Molotovskaya, Gor'kovskaya, and other oblasts; more than 3.2 million fruit trees and berry bushes have been planted.(2)

The directives of the 19th party congress concerning the Fifth Five-Year plan foresee an improvement in the work of MTS and increased mechanization of labor-consuming work in all branches of kolkhoz production. Extensive development of mechanization is also anticipated in the drainage of swamp lands and in the utilization of new lands. LMS (meadow-improvement stations), set up in the largest animal-husbandry regions of the country, will play an important part in accomplishing these tasks.

LMS are equipped with the latest machinery and their work, as in the case of MTS, is based on contractual relations with kolkhozes. However, LMS have features of their own. As opposed to MTS, they are construction organizations and cannot initiate work without some sort of project plan.

An LMS functions in an area that embraces 2, 3, and 5 administrative rayons with its jobs scattered about in a radius of 100 and more kilometers from the station. Meadow-improvement work is considerably more labor consuming than ordinary field work. At the same time, LMS are able to utilize tractors more fully, since the work they perform is neither urgent nor seasonal as is some field work, as, for example, grain sowing or harvesting. They can even perform some operations in winter, such as clearing meadows of brushwood. Leading LMS master new techniques rather quickly and have gained valuable work experience.

In 1950, 35 LMS fulfilled their plan 51.9 percent, with an average output of 10,200 hectares in terms of soft plowing. In 1952, many LMS not only fulfilled, but exceeded their plans, with considerable increase in output of work.(3)

The total capacity of the tractor park in MTS and sovkhozes of the USSR has increased by 59 percent over prewar levels, and that of combines, 51 percent.(4)

Ukrainian SSR

The area devoted to citrus crops has increased from year to year in Izmail'skaya Oblast. In the spring of 1952, a number of kolkhozes planted about 2,000 young lemon trees in trenches.

Over 300 kolkhoz workers are now enrolled in the Stalinskaya Oblast Secondary School which trains kolkhoz chairmen. Monthly courses are held at the school, with 110 kolkhoz leaders in attendance. In the oblast, 144 kolkhoz chairmen are specialists with either higher or secondary educations.(5)

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At present, on the average, there are six 15-horsepower tractors and one combine for each kolkhoz in Chernovitskaya Oblast. In 1952, sugar-beet planters and combines were used for the first time in kolkhozes of the oblast.

During the last 2 years, 13 hydroelectric and 28 steam electric power stations were built in kolkhozes of the oblast.

During the postwar years, the area sown to wheat almost tripled and that devoted to sugar beets increased 150 percent.(2)

Georgian SSR

Irrigation systems developed during the Stalin Five-Year Plans irrigate about 300,000 hectares of fields, gardens, vineyards, and plantations of Georgia. The water-resource construction program being carried out in the republic at present anticipates twice as much land under irrigation by 1957.(6)

RSFSR

Sovkhozes plan an important role in agricultural product output in Kaliningradskaya Oblast. In 1952, they produced about 50 percent of all the grain and more than 70 percent of the milk planned for the oblast.(7)

In 1952, large kolkhoz tracts in Tal'menskiy and Zonal'nyy rayons, Altay-skiy Kray, were devoted to experimental sowing of Omskaya 2078, a variety of spring wheat developed by the Siberian Scientific Research Institute of Grain Growing. In comparison with Milturum 553 (the prevailing variety), the new variety matured 10 days earlier and produced a yield of 2.5 quintals more per hectare. No smut was detected in the areas sown to Omskaya 2078 wheat.

The new, early-ripening variety of spring wheat has aroused a great deal of interest in kolkhozes. Many of them will sow 5-10 hectares to Omskaya 2078 in the spring of 1953. Put' Oktyabrya Kolkhoz in Tal'menskiy Rayon will sow 400 hectares to the new variety.

The 1952 - 1953 winter in the Lower Volga Region is remarkable for its heavy precipitation. Since the prolonged January thaws and subsequent sharp drop in temperature, snow has been falling throughout the region for the 10 days preceding 9 February. The snow depth has reached 50 centimeters in many places.

Extensive efforts are being made to retain the snow on kolkhoz fields. Snow-retention measures have been planned for 1,400,000 hectares. MTS have undertaken to perform almost one half of the work; they are also placing at the disposal of kolkhoz field brigades hundreds of tractors and a great many tractor-drawn snowplows.

Preliminary results of the snow-retention project have been tabulated by the Stalingradskaya Oblast Agricultural Administration. By 9 February, four times as much work had been accomplished as had been done by the same date in 1952. In the most arid part of the region, east of the Volga River, eight times as much snow had been retained. Work on the fields is continuing.(8)

After consolidation of kolkhozes in the Kuban', more than half of all kolkhozes were headed by agricultural specialists. Agronomists and zootechnicians are at the head of production brigades and farms. At present, specialists direct 32 brigades and kolkhoz farms in the Kuban'.(9)

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Mechanical equipment is constantly increasing in MTS of Khabarovskiy Kray. Recently received self-propelled combines, tractor-mounted cultivators, hillers, sweep rakes, grain cleaners, rotary tillers, ditchers, graders, and other types of machines have permitted complete mechanization of soil working and 95 percent mechanization of grain harvesting in kolkhozes of the kray. Machines can now also be used extensively for crop cultivation and potato planting.(8)

Cotton-growing MTS of Stavropol'skiy Kray fulfilled their 1952 plan for tractor work 107 percent. Planned assignments per 15-horsepower tractor and per 15-foot combine were considerably exceeded.

However, the main task of gathering a large cotton harvest was not realized by the cotton-growing MTS. As in 1951, a small cotton harvest was obtained in 1952 in Stavropol'skiy Kray; in both years, much of the blame must be placed on MTS.

The trouble does not lie in the percentage indexes of tractor work, since, numerically, plans were fulfilled. In fact, considerably more raw cotton was machine harvested than in 1951. The fault lies in the failure of MTS of the kray to cope with the following important agricultural operations: thinning sprouts; applying fertilizers to cotton; and complete utilization of machines and equipment in combating plant insects and diseases, artificial defoliation, pruning to induce more rapid ripening, and extraction of fiber from unopened cotton bolls.(9)

In 1952, plowing, sowing, and harvesting of spiked grain crops in Stavropol'skiy Kray was 97 percent mechanized. MTS have greatly increased the quality of soil cultivation, helped kolkhozes to apply crisscross and close-row methods of sowing to more areas, and helped in the supplemental fertilization of crops, as well as a number of other leading agricultural measures. Many kolkhozes in the kray, as a result, harvest 120-140 pud of grain per hectare. The importance of MTS has been increased in the cultivation of industrial crops, in steppe forest culture, in fodder procurement, and in other branches of kolkhoz production. However, a number of MTS failed to fulfill their contracts with kolkhozes in the more important types of work, delayed the time of harvesting grain, and permitted grain losses.(3)

Kolkhoz workers of the 16 Let Oktyabrya Kolkhoz in Pizhanskiy Rayon, Kirovskaya Oblast, have completed the construction of a 140-kilowatt electric power station on the Ish River. The Sunskaya Interkolkhoz GES, providing three kolkhozes with electric power, was also recently put into operation.

Electricity is becoming firmly established in the lives and work of the kolkhoz workers of Kirovskaya Oblast. In recent years, 357 electric power stations have been erected in kolkhozes of the oblast, making possible the electrification of more than 500 kolkhozes. Bel'skiy Rayon has been completely electrified and has 18 kolkhoz electric power stations in operation. The available electric power has permitted mechanization of threshing, grain cleaning, supplying animal husbandry farms with water, and other labor-consuming processes.

In 1953, several new GES will be constructed in the oblast; their total capacity will be more than 1,000 kilowatts.(6)

Eleven kolkhozes have been electrified in Kazanskiy Rayon, Mariyskaya ASSR. More than 1,500 kolkhoz workers' homes will obtain light from the Kuknurakaya Interkolkhoz GES. After the completion in 1953 of the two GES now under construction, all kolkhozes in the rayon will be electrified.(5)

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In 1951, in Yuzhno-Kazakhstanskaya Oblast, 40 specialists were put in charge of kolkhozes, and in 1952 an additional 79 agronomists and zootechnicians were advanced to kolkhoz chairmanships. In 1953, half of all kolkhozes will be headed by specialists.(9)

The Satynskaya Kolkhoz GES in Alma-Atinskaya Oblast became the first GES to go into operation in 1953 in Kazakh SSR.

Construction of electric power stations has been completed in the following: Kolkhoz imeni Kirov in Panfilovskiy Rayon, Taldy-Kurganskaya Oblast; and Kolkhoz imeni Karl Marks in Ayaguzskiy Rayon, Sempalatinskaya Oblast.(10)

Uzbek SSR

Preparations for sowing of dry-valley (sukhodol'nyy) rice are in full swing in kolkhozes of the republic. Many kolkhozes have finished plowing land to be sown to this crop.

In 1953; the area devoted to dry-valley rice, a crop which requires a total of five to six periodic irrigations, is to be more than twice as great as in 1952. Sowing of this type of rice is to be considerably expanded in kolkhozes of Ferganskaya Oblast.(11)

By 3 February 1953, all rayons of Samarkandskaya Oblast had started extensive sowing of spring crops. Dzhizakskiy, Faishskiy, and Khatychinskii rayons, the largest grain-growing rayons, had already sown 1,400-1,500 hectares.(6)

Serious shortcomings in preparations for spring sowing were discovered in the Uzbek SSR. The majority of tractors have not yet been prepared for spring work. Tractor repair has been intolerably bad in MTS of Namanganskaya, Ferganskaya, and Tashkentskaya oblasts.

The plan for delivery and application of mineral fertilizer has been performed in an extremely poor manner. As of 25 January, only 12 percent of the planned mineral fertilizer had been applied in Tashkentskaya Oblast, 12.3 percent in Ferganskaya Oblast, 14.6 percent in Namanganskaya Oblast, and 25 percent in Andizhanskaya Oblast. In the republic as a whole, the plan for application of fertilizer had been fulfilled 23 percent as of the end of January. The situation is still worse in the procurement and distribution of organic fertilizer.

Such important measures as providing kolkhozes with cotton seed, rebuilding irrigation systems, planning and enlarging areas to be irrigated, and removing salt from soils are being carried out poorly in some oblasts of the republic.(12)

Turkmen SSR

Kolkhozes of Ashkhabadskiy Rayon were the first in Ashkhabadskaya Oblast to fulfill the plan for sowing of spring crops on unirrigated land. In the oblast, more than two fifths of the area planned to be sown to spring crops had already been sown by 31 January.(10)

Kirgiz SSR

Preparations for spring are gaining momentum in MTS and kolkhozes of the republic, particularly in the cotton-growing regions. Kolkhozes are obtaining 20 percent more mineral fertilizer than in 1952.(12)

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